

(d) if so, the details of the action required to be taken to deal with the above situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Posting of Civil Wing Officers

957. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the officers working in the Civil Wing, Telecommunications and in the office of the Chief General Manager (Maintenance) Northern Telecom Region, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. are enjoying permanent posting in Delhi because of their personal connections;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the officials holding various posts in Delhi Station for a long time would be transferred to other stations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Transfers and postings of officers are presently done on administrative grounds only. Officers from and to Delhi are posted taking into consideration not only their length and stay but also other criteria like their grade, administrative and technical requirements etc. Hence no specific time limit can be specified.

[Translation]

Telephone Service in Bihar

958. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether rural telephone service (MARR System) in Saharsa and Supoul districts of Bihar is lying out of order;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any complaints have been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(e) whether there is any scheme to grant rebate in telephone bills of subscribers for the duration in which the lines remained out of order;

(f) whether charges/bills under Rural Telephone Service (MARR System) are less as compared to general telephones;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 7 MARR base stations are non-functional in Saharsa & Supoul revenue districts in Bihar.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some complaints for non-working of MARR telephones have been received. These faults could not be set right so far as it is not possible to repair the same locally. Action has been taken to get the faulty units repaired from the equipment manufacturers.

(e) Yes, Sir. There is a scheme to grant rebate in rental for telephones where the service to the subscriber remains interrupted continuously for seven days or more due to departmental reasons.

(f) to (h) Local and Trunk calls from all Village Public Telephones including those provided on MARR systems are charged at 50% of the normal tariff.

Beedi Workers

959. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have introduced Group Insurance Scheme for those Beedi workers who are not the members of the Provident Fund in which in case of death of the insured worker the dependents get claim amount of Rs. 3000 to Rs. 25000 only;

(b) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India, Welfare Commission, Labour Ministry are depriving lakhs of dependents of the beedi workers of the said benefit, intentionally, due to not insurance of Identity Card to those workers; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the above problem?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. As a matter of fact, under Rule 41 of the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Rules, 1978, the responsibility for issue of identity cards to the beedi workers is cast upon the employers. However, as the employers do not usually come forward to fulfil this obligation, the Labour Welfare Organisation of Ministry of Labour have taken up the task of issue of identity cards to the beedi workers on priority basis and have also fixed a monthly target for issue of 250 identity cards by each dispensary. Besides, the State Governments have been requested to launch special drives in association with Welfare Commissioners so that all beedi workers are properly identified and issued Identity Cards to enable them get benefits of the Group Insurance Scheme and also other Welfare schemes. As a result of this, out of 42.50 lakhs estimated number of beedi workers in the country 32,92,914 beedi workers have so far been issued identity cards.